

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 HA-05
CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /095 W
-----010622 211520Z /46

R 211213Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6397
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL
COMUSFORAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 5409

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PO
SUBJECT: SOCIALIST CONFERENCE ON DEMOCRACY IN IBERIA AND LATIN
AMERICA

REF: (A) LISBON 4737, (B) 78 LISBON A-112

SUMMARY: THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY (PSP) IS SPONSORING A
SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 3 CONFERENCE ON "THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS
IN IBERIA AND LATIN AMERICA." HIGH-LEVEL PARTICIPANTS,
INCLUDING MARIO SOARES, FELIPE GONZALEZ, WILLY BRANDT, CARLOS
ANDRES PEREZ, AND ANTONIO GUZMAN HAVE BEEN INVITED..
PSP INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY RUI MATEUS HAS ASKED IF U.S. WOULD
BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE AT A HIGH-LEVEL. ACTION REQUESTED:
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DEPARTMENT VIEWS ON U.S. PARTICIPATION. END SUMMARY.

1. CONFERENCE ON LATIN AMERICA: SOCIALIST PARTY (PS)
INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY RUI MATEUS ON JULY 14 OUTLINED
TO EMBOFF PLANS FOR A PS-SPONSORED CONFERENCE ON "THE
PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIZATION IN THE IBERIAN PENINSULA AND
LATIN AMERICA" IN LISBON SEPTEMBER 30-OCT 3 (REF A).

THE CONFERENCE WILL ADDRESS:

--EXPERIENCES IN DEMOCRATIZATION OF THE IBERIAN PENINSULA
--DEMOCRATIC EXPERIENCES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
(VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, JAMAICA)
--DEMOCRATIC EXPERIENCE IN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WITH
"RESTRICTED DEMOCRACIES" (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, GUATEMALA, EL
SALVADOR, PARAGUAY)
--DEMOCRATIC EXPERIENCE IN THE PROCESS OF INSTALLATION IN
LATIN AMERICA (ECUADOR, PERU, BOLIVIA)
--DEMOCRATIC EXPERIENCES IN LATIN AMERICAN DICTATORSHIPS
(CHILE, ARGENTINA, URUGUAY, NICARAGUA, HONDURAS, PANAMA)
--THE CONCEPT OF DEMOCRACY IN MEXICO
--THE POLITICAL PROCESS IN BRAZIL
--APPROVAL OF A "DECLARATION OF LISBON"

IN SUPPORT OF DEMOCRACY IN LATIN AMERICA.

INVITED PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE MARIO SOARES (PORTUGAL), FELIPE
GONZALEZ (SPAIN), WILLY BRANDT (GERMANY) - THE ABOVE THREE
HAVE ACCEPTED - CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ OR ROMULO BETANCOURT
(VENEZUELA), MICHAEL MANLEY (JAMAICA), DANIEL ODUBER (COSTA RICA),
CESAR TURBAY AYALA (COLOMBIA), ARMANDO VILLANUEVA (PERU),
ANTONIO GUZMAN AND PENA GOMEZ (DOMINICAN REPUBLIC),
LEOPOLD SENGHOR (SENEGAL), LEONEL BRIZOLA AND MARCOS
FREIRE (BRAZIL), AND ANICETO RODRIGUES, ANSELMO SULE AND
POSSIBLY A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER (CHILE). OTHER
EUROPEAN SOCIALIST LEADERS, AND LATIN AMERICAN LEADERS OF THE
DEMOCRATIC LEFT AND CENTER WILL ALSO BE INVITED. (A FULL
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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AND DETAILED PROGRAM HAS BEEN POUCHED
TO EUR/WE AND ARA.)

2. SOUNDING ON U.S. PARTICIPATION: MATEUS ASKED IF U.S.
WOULD BE WILLING TO SEND A HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE
CONFERENCE-- HE SUGGESTED VICE PRESIDENT
MONDALE OR AMBASSADOR YOUNG -- AS A FEATURED OPENING OR CLOSING SPEAK
ER

ALONG WITH MARIO SOARES, FILIPE GONZALEZ, WILLY BRANDT, AND THE
RANKING LATIN AMERICAN OFFICIALS. MATEUS ARGUED THAT THE
U.S. AND THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL SHARE A COMMON INTEREST IN
PROMOTING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND SHOULD
COOPERATE TO THAT END.

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3. SOME IDEOLOGICAL MIX: THE PSP'S LATIN AMERICAN CONFERENCE
FOLLOWS DIRECTLY ON THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL'S CALL FOR
INCREASED ACTIVITY IN LATIN AMERICA (REF B), AND HAS
THE SILENT BACKING OF THE GERMAN SDP. EUROPEAN PARTICIPANTS
WILL BE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS, BUT LATIN
AMERICAN GUESTS WILL RANGE FROM THE COLOMBIAN LIBERALS
TO CHILEAN SOCIALISTS AND RADICALS, AND PERHAPS SEVERAL
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS.

4. COMMENT: USG OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION IN A
SOCIALIST-SPONSORED CONFERENCE SEEMS INADVISABLE FOR A
NUMBER OF REASONS. IN ADDITION TO POSSIBLY IMPLYING
A SPECIAL US RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL,
IT WOULD FURTHER UNDESIRABLE SUSPICIONS WITHIN PORTUGAL
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THAT THE PS HAS A PRIVILEGED RELATIONSHIP WITH WASHINGTON.
PERHAPS WE COULD SUGGEST TO MATEUS THAT HE CONSIDER
INVITING SOME NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS WHO HAVE BEEN PUBLIC
FIGURES ASSOCIATED WITH LATIN AMERICA IN THE PAST (E.G.,
SOL LINOWITZ OR WILLIAM D. ROGERS) OR WHO ARE ACADEMICS
KNOWN FOR SPECIAL EXPERTISE ON LATIN AMERICA, FOR EXAMPLE
ABE LOWENTHAL, ALFRED STEPAN (YALE), JORGE DOMINGUEZ
(HARVARD), OR RIORDAN ROETT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE ON A REPLY TO
MATEUS.
BLOOMFIELD

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